



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,585	07/11/2003	Donald Albert Paquet JR.	FA1048USNA	3692

23906 7590 12/17/2008
E I DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY
LEGAL PATENT RECORDS CENTER
BARLEY MILL PLAZA 25/1122B
4417 LANCASTER PIKE
WILMINGTON, DE 19805

EXAMINER

CHEUNG, WILLIAM K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1796

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

12/17/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTO-Legal.PRC@usa.dupont.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/617,585	Applicant(s) PAQUET ET AL.	
	Examiner WILLIAM K. CHEUNG	Art Unit 1796	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/18/08.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-4 and 22-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-21, 26-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on November 18, 2008 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 10/617,585 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.
2. In view of the amendment filed November 4, 2008, claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 2, 4, 22-25 are drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 5-21, 26-30 are examined with merit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1, 3, 5-21, 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 (line 10-12), the recitations "0.01% to 10% by weight" are considered indefinite. In view of the recitation "consisting of" (claim 1, line 7), the total of weight % should be 100 percent. Is there any missing components?

Claim 26 (line 10-11), the recitations "0.01% to 10% by weight" are considered indefinite. In view of the recitation "consisting of" (claim 26, line 8), the total of weight % should be 100 percent. Is there any missing components?

Claim 27 (line 2), the recitation “non-functional polymer chains” is considered indefinite. It seems that the copolymerization of non-functional methacrylate and a functional acrylate of claim 1 would result a copolymer with functional groups. Therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claims 28, 30 (line 1), the recitations “polymer chains having one crosslinkable group” is considered indefinite. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims. The independent claims 1 and 26 are silent on “polymer chains”. Are the “polymer chains” same as “a copolymer” of claims 1 and 26?

Applicant's arguments filed November 4, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that the monomer mixture consists “essentially” of non-functional acrylate monomer(s) and functional methacrylate monomer(s) so that, optionally, functional acrylate monomers and/or functional methacrylate monomers can be added with the limits of the specified range. However, applicants' argument is not supported by the amended claims. As written, claim 1 (line 8) and claim 26 (line 8), both recite “consisting of”, not “consisting essentially of”.

Claim 1

polymerized from a monomer mixture consisting of one or more non-functional acrylate monomers and one or more functional methacrylate monomers provided with said functional groups, and optionally one or both of: (i) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more functional acrylate monomers provided with said functional groups and (ii) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more non-functional methacrylate monomers; and

Claim 26

Art Unit: 1796

monomer mixture consisting of one or more non-functional acrylate monomers and one or more functional methacrylate monomers provided with said functional groups, and optionally one or both of: (i) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more functional acrylate monomers and (ii) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more non-functional methacrylate monomers provided with said functional groups; and

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13-21, 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rink et al. (US 6,013,739) for the reasons adequately set forth from paragraph 5 of the office rejection of August 7, 2008.

Art Unit: 1796

1. (Currently Amended) A coating composition comprising crosslinkable and crosslinking components, wherein said crosslinkable component comprises:

a copolymer having on an average 2 to 25 crosslinkable groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, acetoacetoxy, carboxyl, primary amine, secondary amine, epoxy and a combination thereof; a weight average molecular weight ranging from about 1000 to 4500; a polydispersity ranging from about 1.05 to 2.5; wherein said copolymer is polymerized from a monomer mixture consisting of one or more non-functional acrylate monomers and one or more functional methacrylate monomers provided with said functional groups, ~~or said monomer mixture also consisting of~~ and optionally one or both of: (i) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more functional acrylate monomers provided with said functional groups and (ii) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more non-functional methacrylate monomers; and

wherein said crosslinking component for said crosslinkable groups is selected from the group consisting of polyisocyanate, polyamine, ketimine, melamine, epoxy, polyacid and a combination thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) A coating composition comprising crosslinkable and crosslinking components, wherein said crosslinkable component comprises:

a copolymer having on an average 2 to 25 crosslinkable groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, acetoacetoxy, primary amine, secondary amine, and a combination thereof; a weight average molecular weight ranging from about 1000 to 4500; a polydispersity ranging from about 1.05 to 2.5; wherein said copolymer is polymerized from a monomer mixture consisting of one or more non-functional acrylate monomers and one or more functional methacrylate monomers provided with said functional groups, ~~or said monomer mixture also consisting of~~ and optionally one or both of: (i) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more functional acrylate monomers and (ii) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more functional methacrylate monomers provided with said functional groups; and

wherein said crosslinking component for said crosslinkable groups is selected from the group consisting of polyisocyanate, ketimine, melamine, and a combination thereof.

Rink et al. (col. 18-19, claim 1, col. 9, line 29-41) claim a coating composition comprising copolymers containing hydroxyl groups as a crosslinkable component as

Art Unit: 1796

claimed, and polyisocyanate as a crosslinking component. Rink et al. (col. 9, line 29-41) clearly disclose the molecular weight and polydispersity properties as claimed.

Regarding the processing related limitations of claims 17, 18, and 21, they do not carry much weight in the patentability of the claimed coating composition unless applicants can provide proof that the claimed processing related limitations would impart unique features onto the claimed coating compositions.

Regarding the Tg limitation of claim 6 and the VOC limitation of claim 7, in view of the substantially identical composition as claimed and the composition as disclosed in Rink et al., the examiner has a reasonable basis that the claimed Tg and the claimed VOC properties are inherently possessed in Rink et al.

In view of the reasons set forth above, Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13-21, 26-30 are anticipated.

Applicant's arguments filed November 4, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that Rink et al. disclose compositions comprising too many components including components that are not required by the invention as claimed. However, in view of the 112 rejection set forth, applicants' argument is not supported by the claims as written. Therefore, the instant 102 rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1796

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
8. Claims 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rink et al. (US 6,013,739) in view of Roesler et al. (US 2003/0232942 A1), for the reasons adequately set forth from paragraph 7 of the office rejection of August 7, 2008.

Rink et al. (col. 18-19, claim 1, col. 9, line 29-41) claim a coating composition comprising copolymers containing hydroxyl groups as a crosslinkable component as claimed, and polyisocyanate as a crosslinking component. Rink et al. (col. 9, line 29-41) clearly disclose the molecular weight and polydispersity properties as claimed.

The difference between the invention of claim 12 and Rink et al. is that Rink et al. are silent on a coating composition comprising isocyanatopropyl trimethoxy silane.

Roesler et al. (abstract; 0061) disclose polyurethane coating compositions that are very similar to the polyurethane coating compositions of Rink et al., in that both disclose the use of polyols, and polyisocyanates for preparing polyurethane based coating compositions. In view that both Roesler et al. and Rink et al. are in the field of endeavors of developing novel polyurethane coating compositions, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art to incorporate the isocyanatopropyl trimethoxy silane teaching of Roesler et al. (page 5, 0067) into composition teachings in Roesler et al. to obtain the invention of claim 12, motivated by the expectation of success of developing a coating system that is moisture curable (page 1, 0001; page 5, 0069-0074).

Applicant's arguments filed November 4, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that Rink et al. disclose compositions comprising too many components including components that are not required by the invention as claimed. However, in view of the 112 rejection set forth, applicants' argument is not supported by the claims as written. Therefore, the instant 103 rejection is maintained.

Applicants must recognize that Rink et al. (col. 18, claim 1, (a) and (c)) clearly disclose functional methacrylates and non-functional acrylate as defined by applicants' specification (page 7) in a copolymer in view that Rink et al. (col. 18, line 22-23) clearly disclose "reaction product obtained by polymerizing".

The **non-functional acrylate monomer** can be provided with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of linear C1 to C20 alkyl, branched C3 to C20 alkyl, cyclic C3 to C20 alkyl, bicyclic or polycyclic C5 to C20 alkyl, aromatic with 2 to 3 rings, phenyl, C1 to C20 fluorocarbon and a combination thereof. The

Art Unit: 1796

functional methacrylate monomer is provided with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, carboxyl, acetoacetoxy, primary and secondary amine, epoxy and a combination thereof.

Some of the one or more **non-functional acrylate monomers** in the monomer mixture include methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, pentyl acrylate, hexyl acrylate, octyl acrylate, nonyl acrylate, isodecyl acrylate, and lauryl acrylate; branched alkyl monomers, such as isobutyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate; and cyclic alkyl monomers, such as cyclohexyl acrylate, methylcyclohexyl acrylate, trimethylcyclohexyl acrylate, tertiarybutylcyclohexyl acrylate and isobomyl acrylate. Isobomyl acrylate and butyl acrylate are preferred.

Some of the specific **functional methacrylate monomers** in the monomer mixture can include hydroxyalkyl methacrylates, such as hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxy propyl methacrylate, hydroxyisopropyl methacrylate, hydroxybutyl methacrylate; aminoalkyl methacrylates, such as tertiarybutylaminoethyl methacrylate and N-methylaminoethyl methacrylate; glycidyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid and acetoacetoxyethyl methacrylate. Hydroxyethyl methacrylate and hydroxybutyl methacrylate are preferred.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William K. Cheung whose telephone number is (571) 272-1097. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM to 2:00PM; 4:00PM to 8:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David WU can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1796

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/William K Cheung/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

William K. Cheung, Ph. D.
Primary Examiner
December 9, 2008